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(WASHINGTON, DC) — The National Multiple Sclerosis Society honored U.S. Congressman Russ Carnahan of Missouri, 3rd Congressional District, today as its 2007 Representative of the Year. The award was presented at the Society's annual gathering of MS activists in Washington, DC. This is the highest honor the Society awards to public officials.

"The Society applauds Congressman Carnahan for his work to benefit people living with multiple sclerosis, particularly his leadership of the MS Caucus, fighting for the advancement of MS research, and eliminating obstacles like the Medicare 'in the home' restriction," Society President and CEO Joyce Nelson said. "His accomplishments are certainly deserving of the National MS Society's 2007 Congressman of the Year."

The Society's Gateway Area Chapter in St. Louis and Mid America Chapter in Kansas City nominated Congressman Carnahan for the award, applauding recent efforts that have helped benefit people in Missouri and nationwide who live with multiple sclerosis. Among all members of the U.S. House of Representatives, Carnahan was selected as the member whose leadership and dedication to healthcare issues most significantly impacted the lives of people with MS during the year.

"It has been a privilege working with The National Multiple Sclerosis Society. I have been continually impressed by the devotion and talent of so many individuals' work to eradicate MS. I am truly honored to be recognized by such a worthwhile organization. Together we can continue to raise awareness and fund research so that those who suffer with MS and those who love them will live to see a cure," Congressman Russ Carnahan said.

- Congressman Carnahan is recognized for many accomplishments, including:

Serving to co-chair the new Congressional Multiple Sclerosis Caucus in the House of Representatives.

- Spearheading the effort to secure federal funding for MS research through the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs in the Department of Defense.

- Being an outspoken proponent of stem cell research as demonstrated by his co-sponsorship of the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act.

- Co-sponsoring the Medicare Independent Living Act to help eliminate the Medicare “in the home” restriction.

For more information on the Missouri chapters of the Society and Missouri programs for people living with MS, visit: [www.nationalMSSociety.org/chapter](http://www.nationalMSSociety.org/chapter)